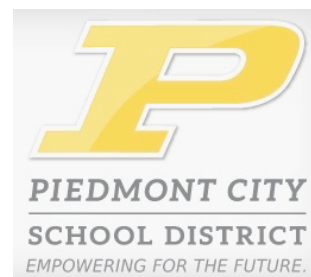


Chairman Ajit Pai
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW,
Washington, DC 20554

October 23, 2017

Dear Chairman Pai,



I am writing today in response to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Public Notice which, among other things, considers changes to the E-Rate program. Before delving into my response to the proposed changes, I want to thank the FCC for your continued support for the E-Rate program and for the critical programmatic and policy changes the commission adopted in 2014. The E-Rate program provides critical discounts to assist schools (like mine) to obtain affordable telecommunications and internet access.

Piedmont City School district is a small rural school district in Piedmont, Alabama. Our school is comprised of about 1200 students from grades k-12. We are in a city that was once one that thrived on the textile industry but for many years it has dwindled since most of the factory jobs have moved out of country in this industry. Our system is one that is composed mostly of students from a low socioeconomic background with is evident with our free/reduced lunch percentage being around 65%. We are a system that truly needs E-Rate dollars because it allows us to save money keeping our network updated so that we have the ability to provide better curriculum as well as provide our students access to credit advancement, credit recovery, and even dual enrollment opportunities.

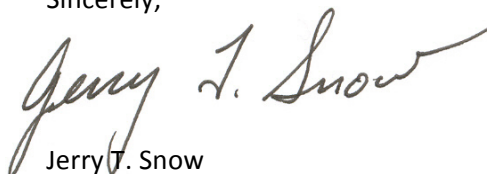
The E-Rate program is a program succeeding in its mission. As the FCC moves forward with this public notice, it is prudent to remain focused on the fact that E-Rate is a program that works. Any changes to the E-Rate program should be focused on expanding a successful program that has yet to reach its full potential and ensuring the FCC remains a good steward of the changes adopted 2014, allowing those changes to progress and play out as intended.

E-Rate played a critical role is the rapid and significant expansion of connectivity in schools, and the 2014 modernization was a much needed update to ensure more schools and libraries are connected to broadband. The E-Rate's investment in Category 2 Wi-Fi and internal connections funding is extremely valuable and could not be replaced by school, district or state funds.

With our system being one that is a one-to-one school system, we must consistently work to maintain our connectivity so that our students are connected at all times. We are striving to provide our students with experiences that they would not have access to in their personal lives. Since I am new to my position I am not experienced enough to explain how the system has used our Category 2 funds in the past but I can whole-heartedly tell you how important it is for our future. We constantly have to update and repair our internal connections through firewall services, switches, routers, battery backups, access points and wireless controller systems. We truly need this to remain an option for us, especially being a small rural system.

In closing, I reiterate my district's continued, strong support for and reliance upon the E-Rate program for being able to access and afford the high-speed connectivity that is so central to our students' learning. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,



Jerry T. Snow